

MARVEL

JAMES PATTERSON

003

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT

HOUSER • FAILLA • ROSENBERG



MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

JAMES PATTERSON

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FINAL FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



MAXIMUM RIDE AND THE FLOCK HAD BEEN LIVING A PEACEFUL, IF NOMADIC, EXISTENCE WHEN THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE IN MAX'S HEAD RETURNED WITH A NEW MESSAGE: THE **ERASERS**, THE WINGED HUNTERS SENT BY **ITEX** TO STALK THEM, HAVE ALL BEEN KILLED.

THINKING THIS IS THEIR CHANCE FOR A NORMAL LIFE, MAX AND **FANG** WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF A HOME WHERE THE FLOCK COULD PERMANENTLY SETTLE DOWN. ON THEIR JOURNEY, MAX VISITED **DR. MARTINEZ**, AN OLD MENTOR, AND HAD HER REMOVE THE MICROCHIP IN HER ARM THAT MAX SUSPECTED ALLOWED THE VOICE TO MAKE CONTACT. BUT THE VOICE IS STILL IN HER HEAD, AND UPON RETURNING TO CAMP, THEY FOUND THE REST OF THE FLOCK KIDNAPPED.

THE SEARCH FOR THEIR FAMILY LANDED MAX AND FANG AS PRISONERS ALONGSIDE THE FLOCK IN AN ITEX FACILITY. THERE, **ARI**, AN ERASER AND FORMER ENEMY OF THE FLOCK, LET MAX IN ON ITEX'S SECRET **BY-HALF PLAN** -- THEIR GOAL BEING TO KILL OFF HALF THE EARTH'S POPULATION! WITH HELP FROM ARI, THE FLOCK ESCAPED, BUT AS THEY REGROUP AND TRY TO PLAN THEIR NEXT MOVE, FANG LAYS DOWN AN ULTIMATUM: HE WON'T WORK WITH ARI, AND EITHER HE OR THE ERASER MUST GO!

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MAX RIDE: ULTIMATE FLIGHT No. 3, January 2016. Published Monthly by **MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC.**, a subsidiary of **MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC**. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. © Copyright © 2015 by James Patterson. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of James Patterson. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this comic book with those of any living or dead person or actual institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.



THE FLOCK'S TEMPORARY HOME...

NOW I'M NOT SAYING THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE FOREVER.



IT'S JUST THAT FANG AND I...WE JUST THINK WE CAN COVER MORE GROUND SEPARATELY.



ITEX IS SO BIG THAT IT REALLY MAKES SENSE TO COME AT THEM FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES.

THEY WANT TO KILL OFF HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO STOP THEM.

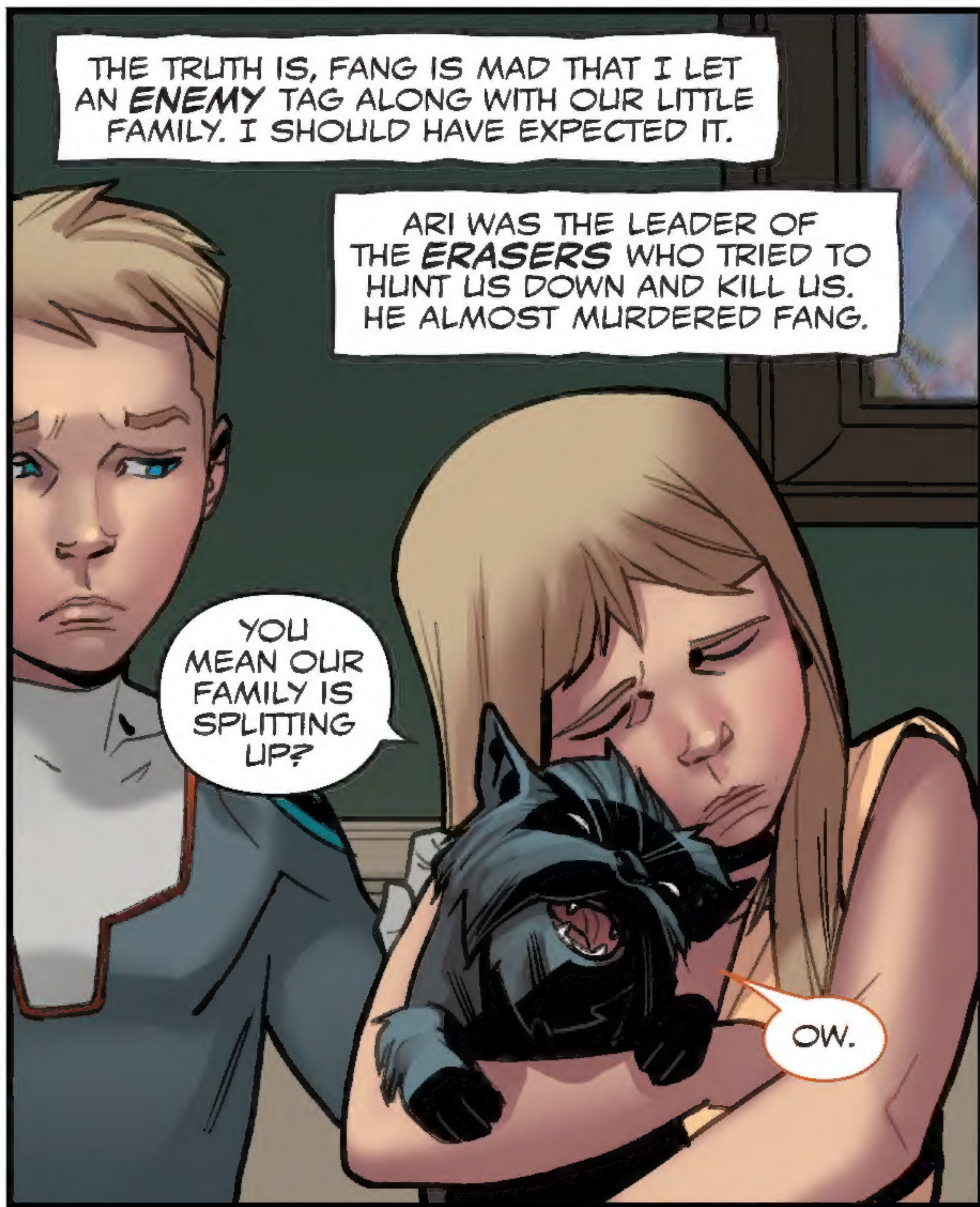


RIGHT, FANG?

WELL, I HAVE SOMETHING BIG IN THE WORKS. NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULDN'T GO WITH THE PROGRAM.

THE OTHERS ARE GOING TO KNOW THAT SOMETHING'S OFF.



THE TRUTH IS, FANG IS MAD THAT I LET AN **ENEMY** TAG ALONG WITH OUR LITTLE FAMILY. I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT.

ARI WAS THE LEADER OF THE **ERASERS** WHO TRIED TO HUNT US DOWN AND KILL US. HE ALMOST MURDERED FANG.

YOU MEAN OUR FAMILY IS SPLITTING UP?

OW.



BUT ARI WAS JUST A LITTLE KID WHEN THE SCIENTISTS TURNED HIM INTO A MONSTER. I THINK THAT KID IS STILL INSIDE SOMEWHERE.

AND HE HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE. HE'S GOING TO DIE. **VERY SOON.**

IT'S JUST FOR NOW. UNTIL WE STOP THE BAD GUYS.

RIGHT, FANG?

HN.



I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HIM OUT IN THE COLD.

AND OF COURSE YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH MISSION YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF.



MAX.

I'LL GO WITH MAX.

AT LEAST ARI'S SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE.



THE QUESTION IS, DO THE OTHERS FEEL LIKE FANG? I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO THIS ALONE.

OKAY, ARI'S WITH ME. ANYONE ELSE?



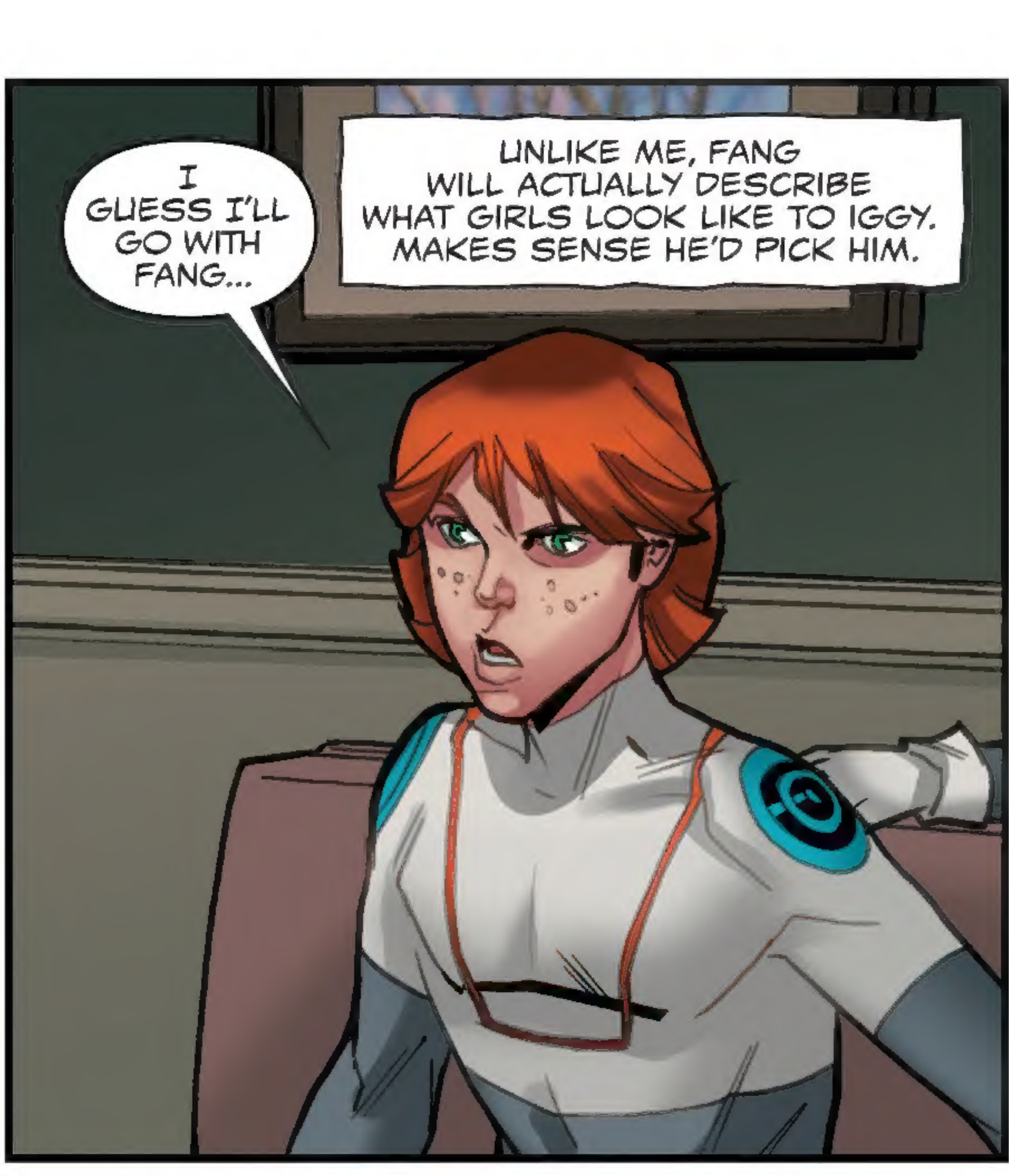


I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU, MAX.

AND I'M STAYING WITH ANGEL.

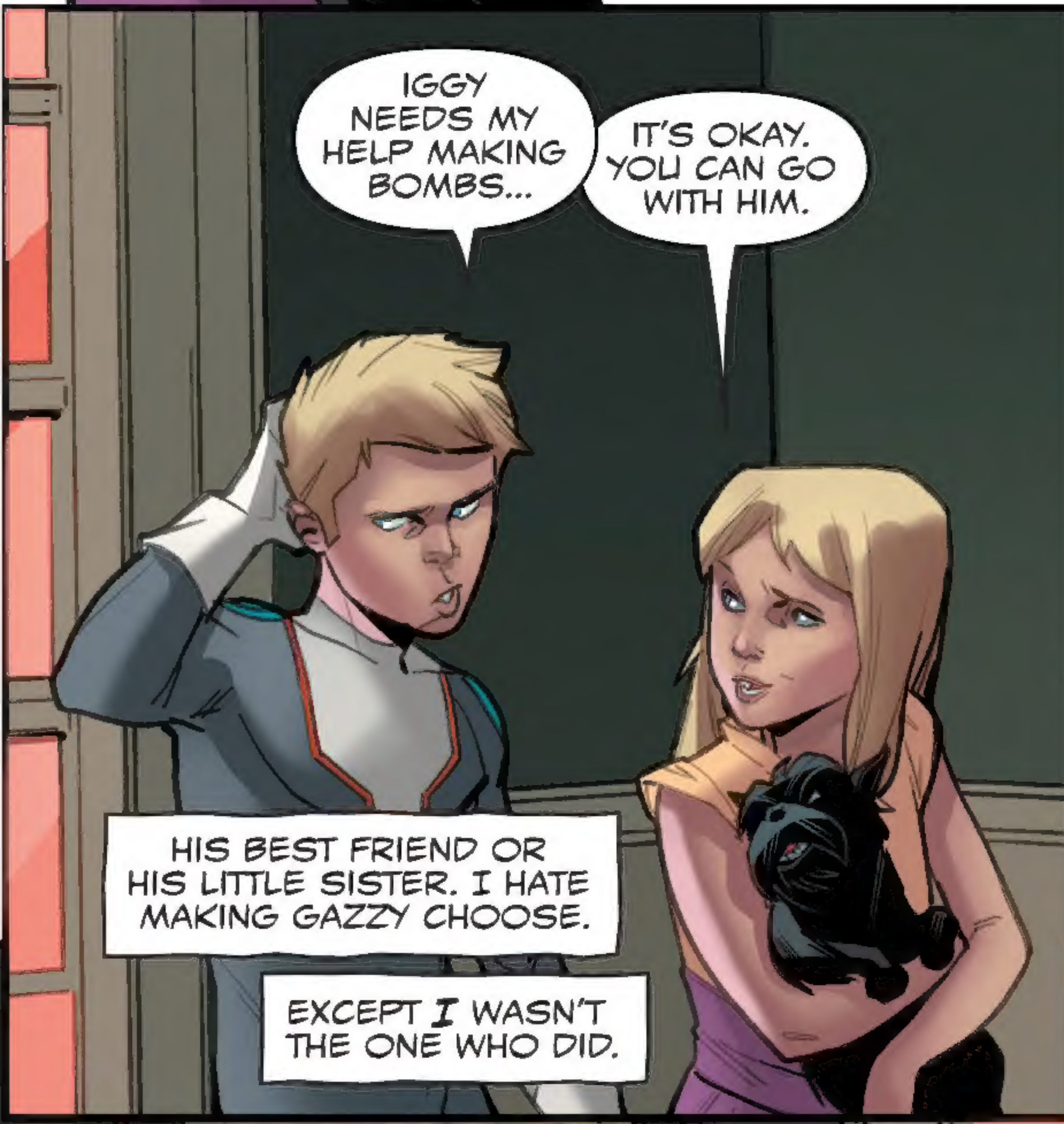
ANGEL CAN READ MINDS. I'M SURE SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHY THIS IS HAPPENING.

SHE'D ALSO KNOW IF ARI IS SAFE TO BE AROUND. IF SHE'S COMING WITH ME, IT MEANS I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.



I GUESS I'LL GO WITH FANG...

UNLIKE ME, FANG WILL ACTUALLY DESCRIBE WHAT GIRLS LOOK LIKE TO IGGY. MAKES SENSE HE'D PICK HIM.



IGGY NEEDS MY HELP MAKING BOMBS...

IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN GO WITH HIM.

HIS BEST FRIEND OR HIS LITTLE SISTER. I HATE MAKING GAZZY CHOOSE.

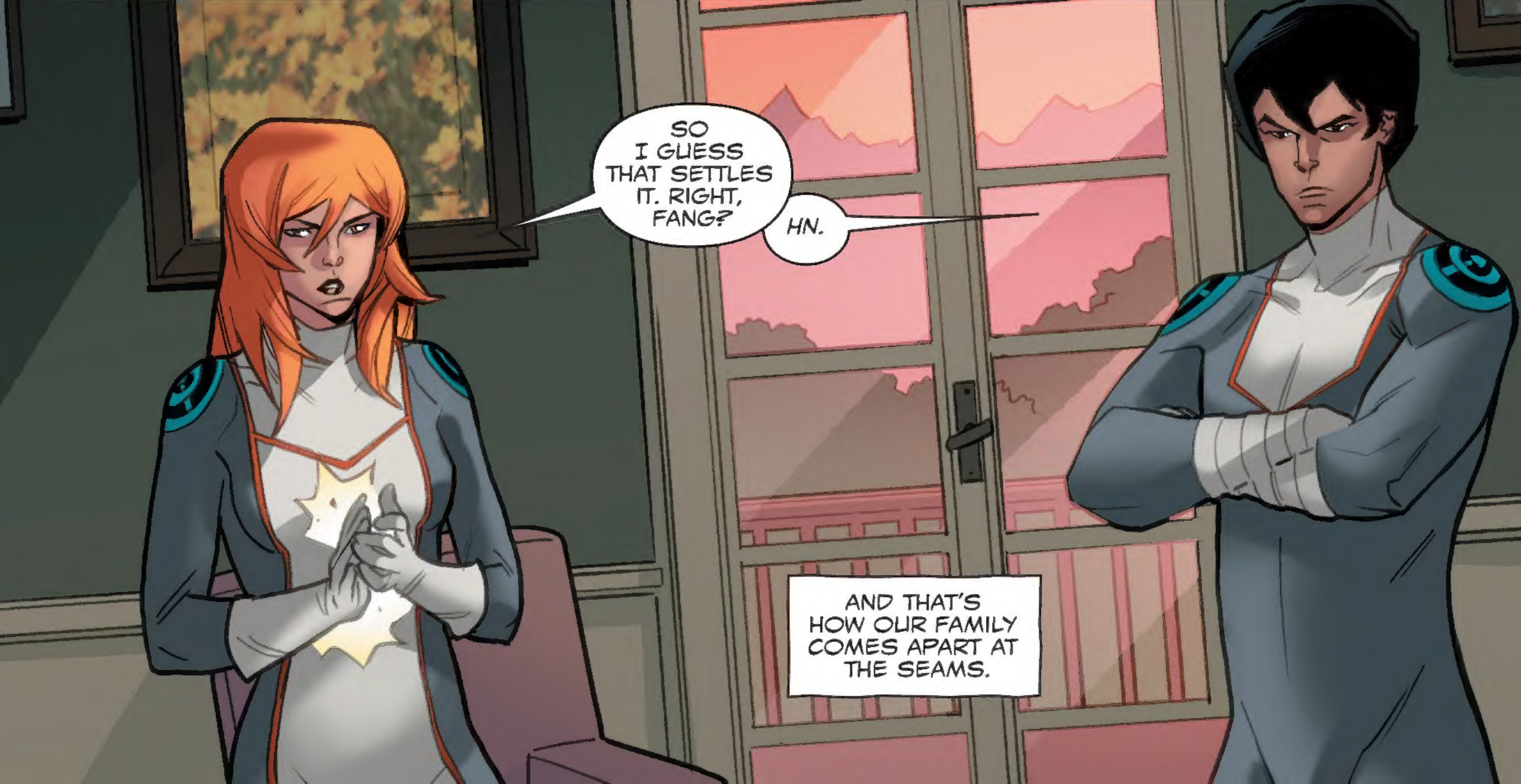
EXCEPT I WASN'T THE ONE WHO DID.



WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO BE STUCK WITH JUST BOYS.

I'M GOING WITH MAX. IF ONLY TO GET AWAY FROM GAZZY'S FARTS.

AT LEAST WITH NLUDGE ALONG, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT BEING TOO QUIET.



SO I GUESS THAT SETTLES IT. RIGHT, FANG?

HN.

AND THAT'S HOW OUR FAMILY COMES APART AT THE SEAMS.



HE'D BETTER KEEP THEM SAFE. OR HE'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME.

IT'LL BE OKAY, MAX.



I DON'T THINK HE'LL STAY MAD FOR VERY LONG. HE ISN'T EVEN AS MAD AS HE THINKS HE IS RIGHT NOW.



I DON'T EVEN CARE WHAT YOUR LOVER'S SPAT WAS ABOUT. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT.



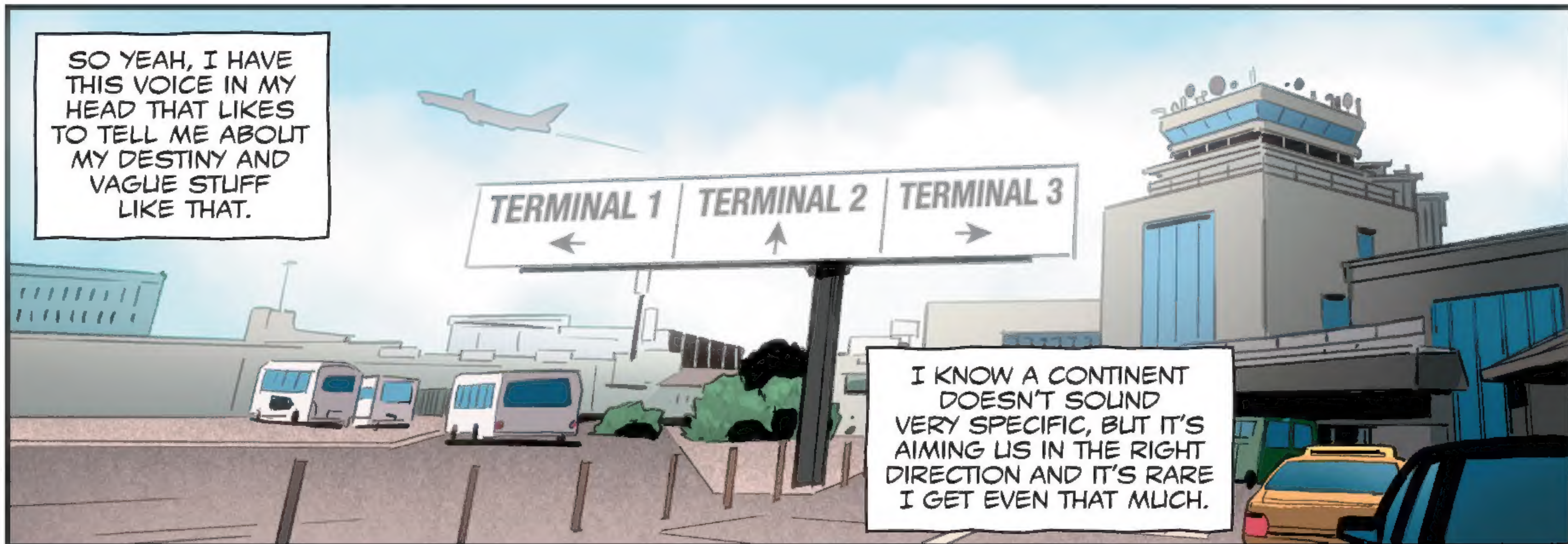
IT WASN'T A...

AND AS SOON AS WE FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START WITH **SAVING THE WORLD**, THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED.



I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THAT.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT EUROPE?

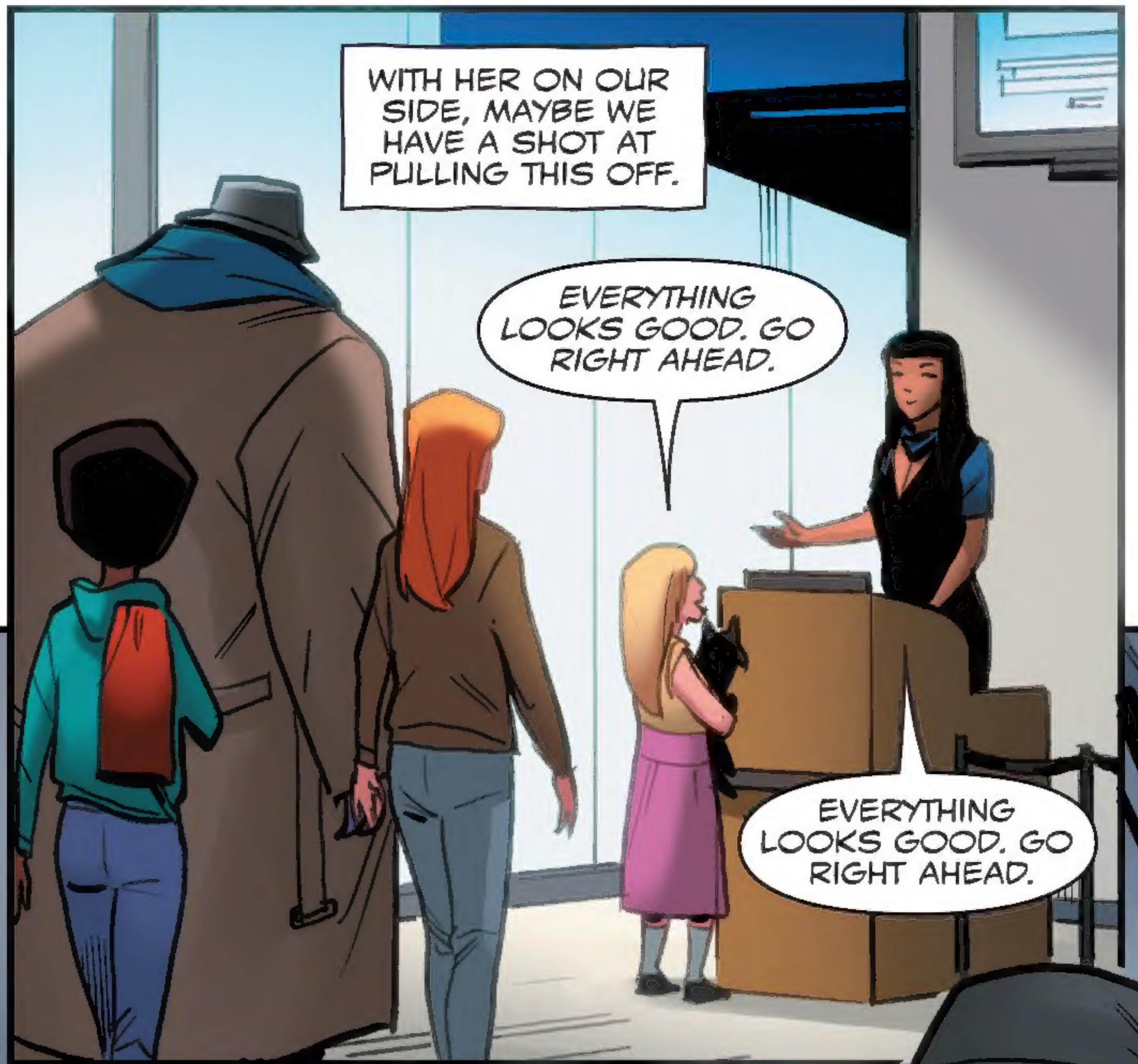




SHE COULD GIVE THE JEDI AND THEIR MIND TRICKS A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY.

EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD. GO RIGHT AHEAD.

EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD. GO RIGHT AHEAD.



WITH HER ON OUR SIDE, MAYBE WE HAVE A SHOT AT PULLING THIS OFF.

EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD. GO RIGHT AHEAD.

EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD. GO RIGHT AHEAD.



JUST AS SOON AS WE FIGURE OUT WHAT **THIS** ACTUALLY IS.

BUSINESS CLASS?

I THOUGHT FIRST CLASS MIGHT BE PUSHING IT A LITTLE BIT.

AND HEY, SAVING THE WORLD **TOTALLY** COUNTS AS BUSINESS, RIGHT?



HAVING A DESTINATION IS A START, AT LEAST.

I GUESS WE'LL SEE WHAT'S WAITING FOR US WHEN WE GET THERE.

I JUST HOPE FANG AND THE BOYS ARE OKAY, WHEREVER THEY ARE.

HOLLYWOOD, CA.

WAIT, YOU HAVE **HOW MANY** PEOPLE FOLLOWING YOUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

YOU HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

YEAH. AND ALMOST **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND** SUBSCRIBERS.

I'VE BEEN VLOGGING ABOUT ALL THE STUFF WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH FOR A WHILE NOW.

ITEX, ALL THE STUFF THE SCIENTISTS HAVE DONE. PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

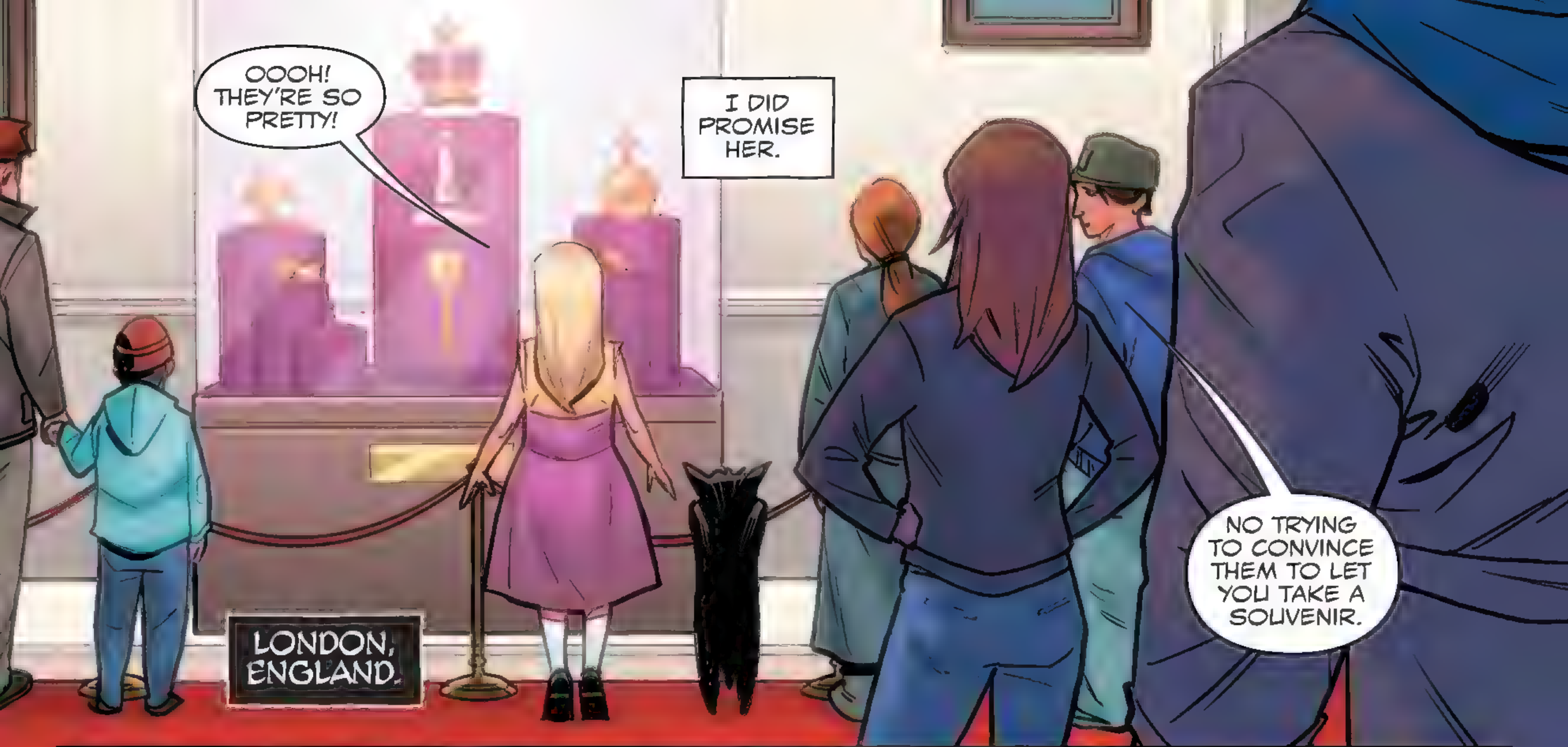
BUT IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT **EVERYTHING** WE'RE DOING, COULDN'T THAT BE HOW THE BAD GUYS KEEP FINDING US?

UH, GUYS...?

SOME OF THOSE CREEPY ROBOT JERKS ARE FOLLOWING US. AND THEY'RE **FAST**.

I'M **REALLY** STARTING TO HATE THOSE GUYS...





OOOH!
THEY'RE SO
PRETTY!

I DID
PROMISE
HER.

NO TRYING
TO CONVINCE
THEM TO LET
YOU TAKE A
SOLUVENIR.

LONDON,
ENGLAND.



BUT SERIOUSLY, THOSE
GETUPS LOOK SOOOOOO
ITCHY. ARE YOU NOT EVEN
ALLOWED TO SCRATCH?
ALL THOSE ITCHES?

BESIDES, IT DOESN'T SEEM
SMART TO TRY TO BREAK INTO
THE LOCAL ITEX FACILITY
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.



MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY
THE SIGHTS WHILE
THEY'RE STILL HERE.



WHILE WE'RE
STILL HERE.

WE STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT THEIR
BIG, EVIL PLAN IS,
BESIDES KILLING
HALF OF THE
WORLD.



WE NEED TO FIND A WAY PAST ITEX'S SECURITY.

I...I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GO IN THERE, MAX.



WHAT IS IT, ANGEL?

THE PEOPLE ARE THINKING **REALLY** BAD THOUGHTS.

THEY KILLED ALL THE HYBRIDS WHO WERE THERE. AND THEY'RE **GLAD**.



THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD, MAX. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I'M NOT SURE. IF THEY HAVE ANSWERS--

YOU WON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HERE, MAX.



THE VOICE SAYS IT'S A NO-GO.

GOOD.

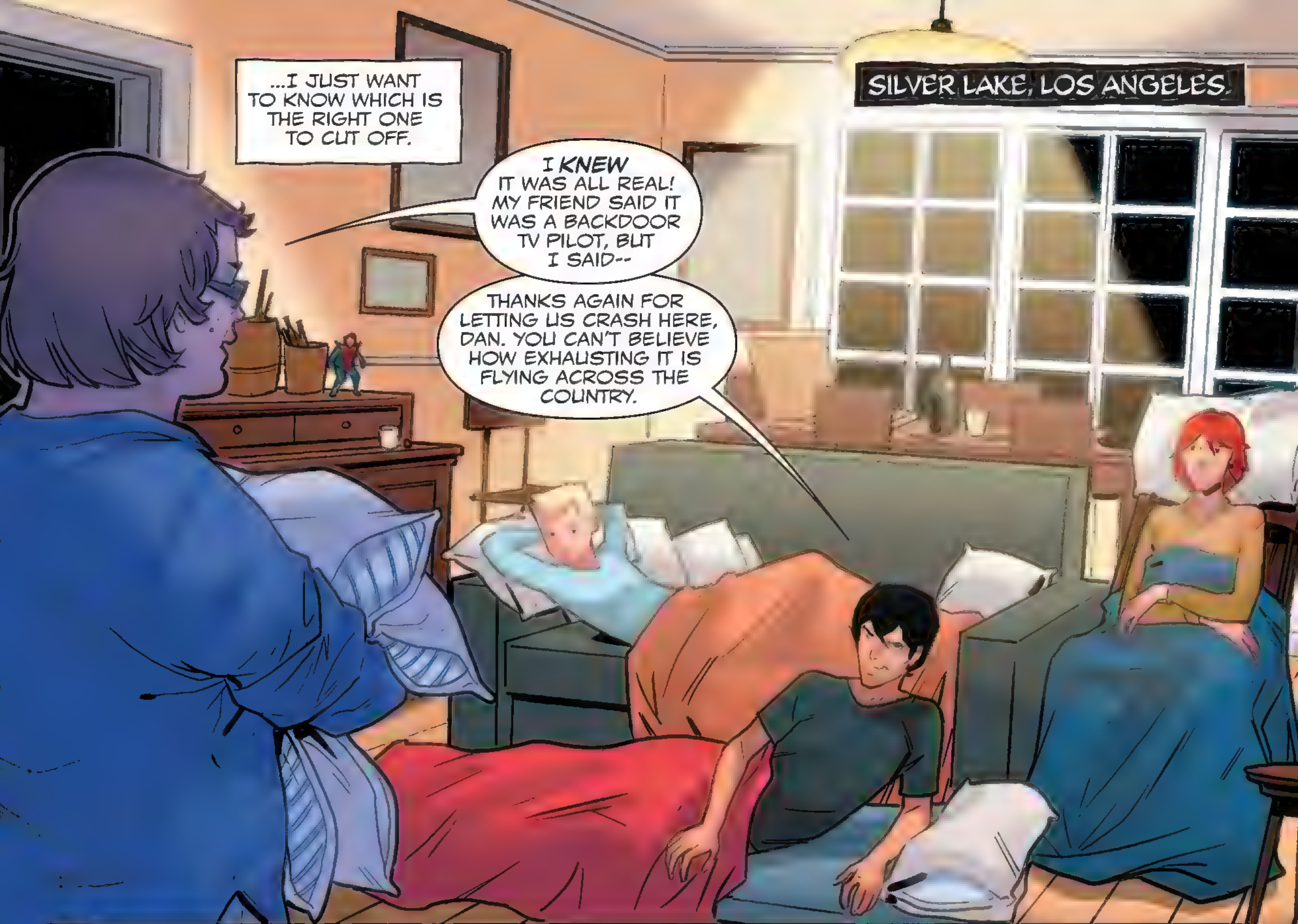
SO VOICE, WHERE **SHOULD** WE GO?

TIME FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO FLY EAST. ITEX HAS LOCATIONS ALL ACROSS EUROPE.



THIS HYDRA HAS EVEN MORE HEADS THAN YOU KNOW.

I DON'T CARE HOW MANY HEADS IT HAS...



...I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHICH IS THE RIGHT ONE TO CUT OFF.

I *KNEW* IT WAS ALL REAL! MY FRIEND SAID IT WAS A BACKDOOR TV PILOT, BUT I SAID--

THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING US CRASH HERE, DAN. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE HOW EXHAUSTING IT IS FLYING ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



OH, RIGHT. I'LL LET YOU GUYS CATCH SOME Zs.

IF YOU NEED, AH, LIKE, BIRDSEED OR ANYTHING, I'LL BE IN THE BEDROOM.

BIRDSEED?



SO ALL THESE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT US FROM YOUR VIDEOS?

YUP. AND IF THINGS GO ACCORDING TO PLAN TOMORROW, **THOUSANDS** WILL TURN INTO **MILLIONS**.



I DON'T KNOW, THIS WHOLE THING SEEMS WEIRD. WE SHOULDN'T BE COUNTING ON OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP US.

HEY, SUPPOSEDLY ITEX WANTS TO DESTROY THE WORLD, RIGHT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE THE WORLD A CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK.

HOLLYWOOD,
THE NEXT
DAY...

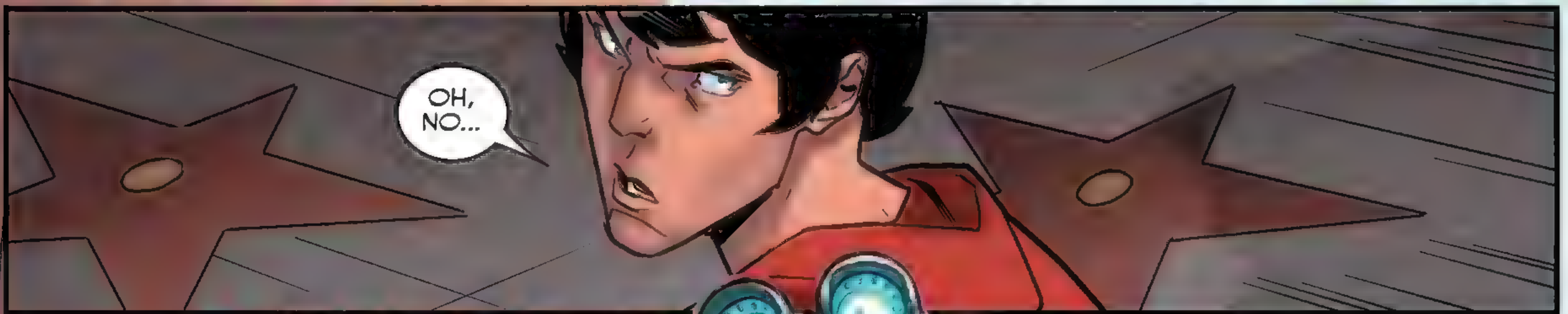
I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THIS, FANG...

TRUST ME, THEY
WON'T BE ABLE TO SEND
KILLER ROBOTS AFTER US
ONCE EVERYONE IS
WATCHING.

THEY
COULD BE JUST
LIKE MY PARENTS--
ONLY WANT US
AROUND FOR
PROFIT.

LET'S GIVE
THEM A SHOT
BEFORE WE WRITE
THEM OFF. IT'S THE
BIGGEST NEWS STORY
OF THE YEAR AND
THEY GET FIRST
CRACK.

IF THINGS
SEEM DICEY,
WE'LL BAIL.



--BUT EVEN WITHOUT A VOICE IN MY HEAD TELLING ME TO HURRY ALONG, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

OKAY, GUYS, WE'LL REST FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES AND THEN--

PARIS, FRANCE.

BUT I WANTED TO TRY REAL FRENCH CROISSANTS FROM A REAL FRENCH BOULANGERIE!

I BET THEY'RE SOOOOO MUCH BETTER THAN THE ONES FROM GROCERY STORES BACK HOME.

ME AND TOTAL WANT CROISSANTS, TOO! AND TO WALK AROUND SOME MORE!

WE CAN'T JUST...

AS FAR AS I KNOW, I'M TAKING THEM INTO THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES. AND ARI...

...FIGHTING HAS BEEN ARI'S LIFE SINCE THEY MADE HIM A MONSTER. HE DESERVES BETTER BEFORE HE EXPIRES.

FINE. BUT YOU ONLY GET A FEW HOURS.

YAAAAAAAY!

I'M NOT LIKE JEB. ARI'S OWN FATHER...

HE TREATED ARI LIKE A GUN TO AIM AT US. I WANT TO DO BETTER.

LENDEHEIM, GERMANY.

THIS IS ITEX'S MAIN HEADQUARTERS.
IF YOU HURRY, YOU MIGHT GET TO
SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING.

I'M NOT SURE I
WANT TO KNOW WHAT
YOUR VERSION OF
"INTERESTING" IS...

THE
VOICE SAYS
THAT THIS IS
THE PLACE,
GUYS.



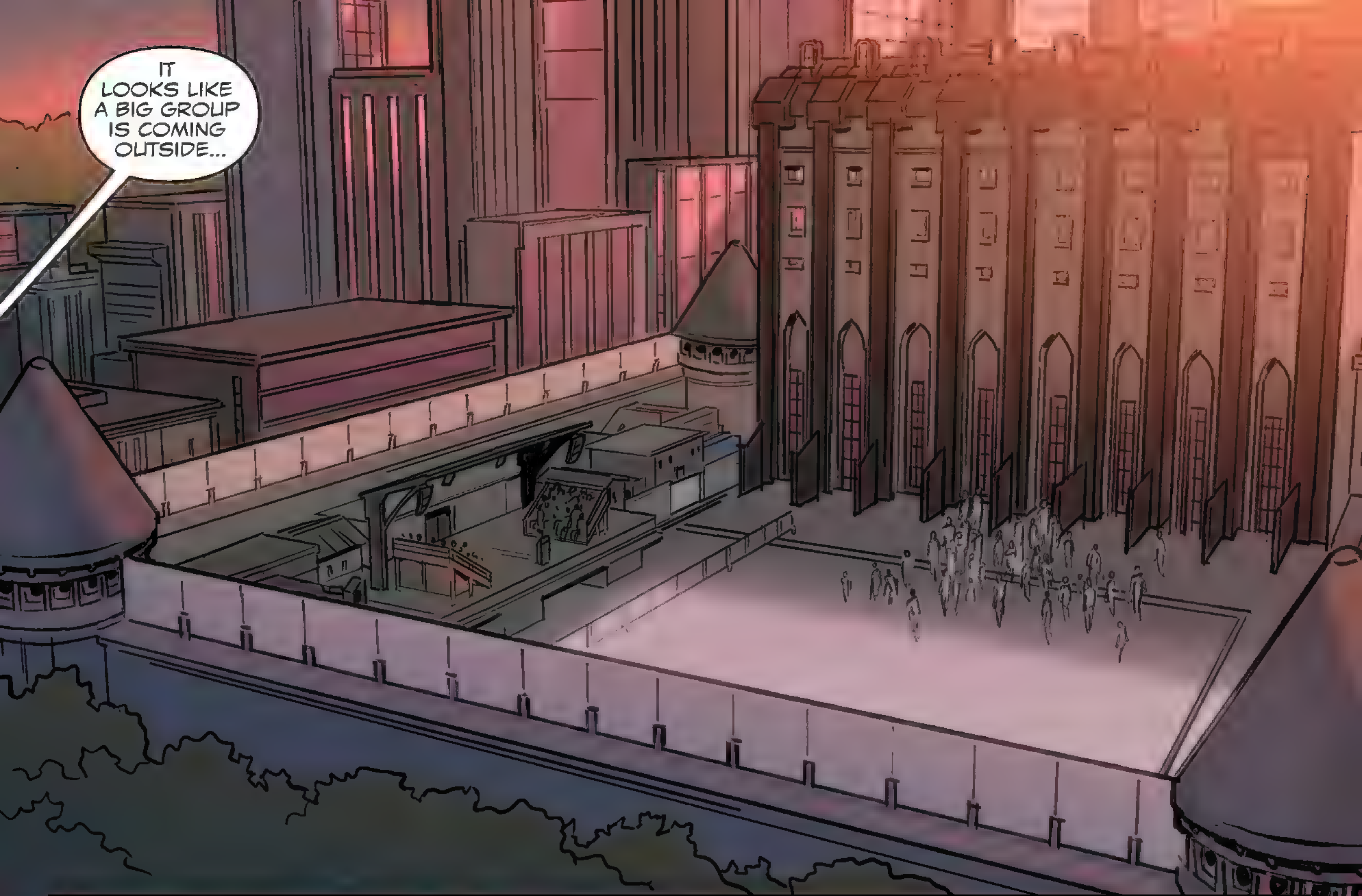
SO IT
DOESN'T MATTER
HOW DARK OR EVIL
THE THOUGHTS OF THE
PEOPLE INSIDE ARE
THIS TIME.


WE'RE
GOING IN.



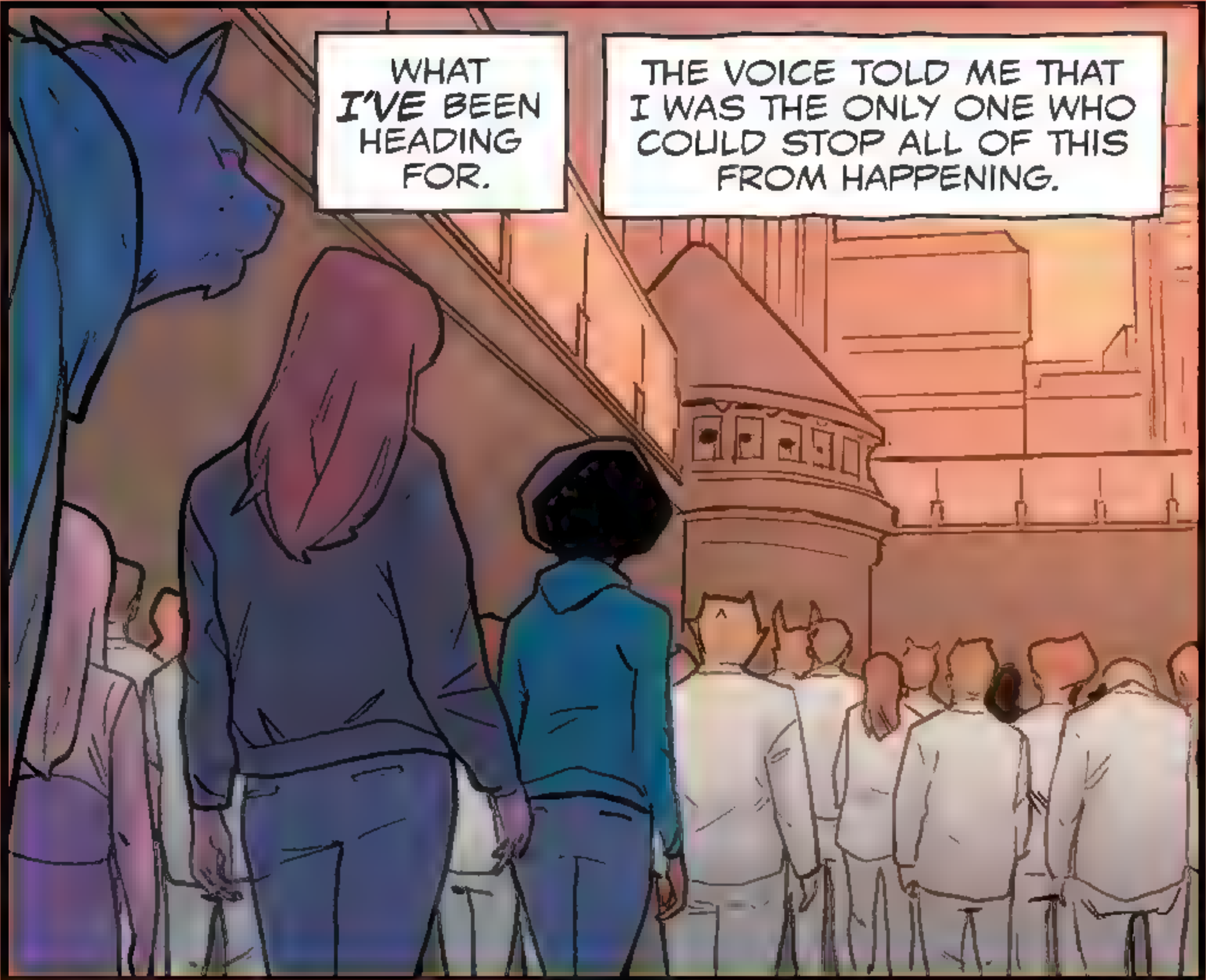
CHECK
IT OUT!








SO THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHAT
WE'VE BEEN
HEADED FOR.

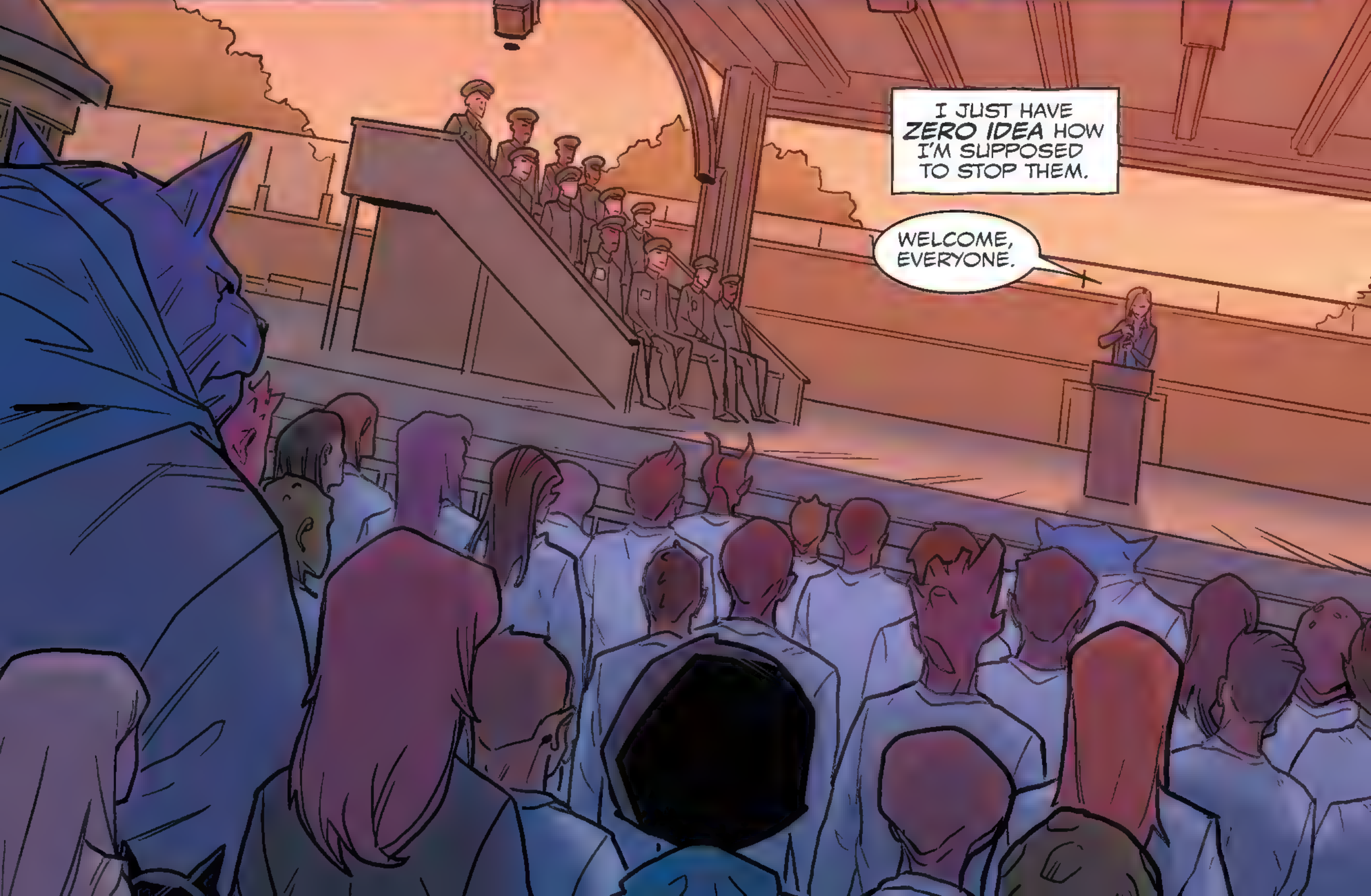


WHAT
I'VE BEEN
HEADING
FOR.

THE VOICE TOLD ME THAT
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO
COULD STOP ALL OF THIS
FROM HAPPENING.



WE FOUND THE
ENEMY. THANKS
TO ARI, I KNOW
WHAT THEY
WANT TO DO.

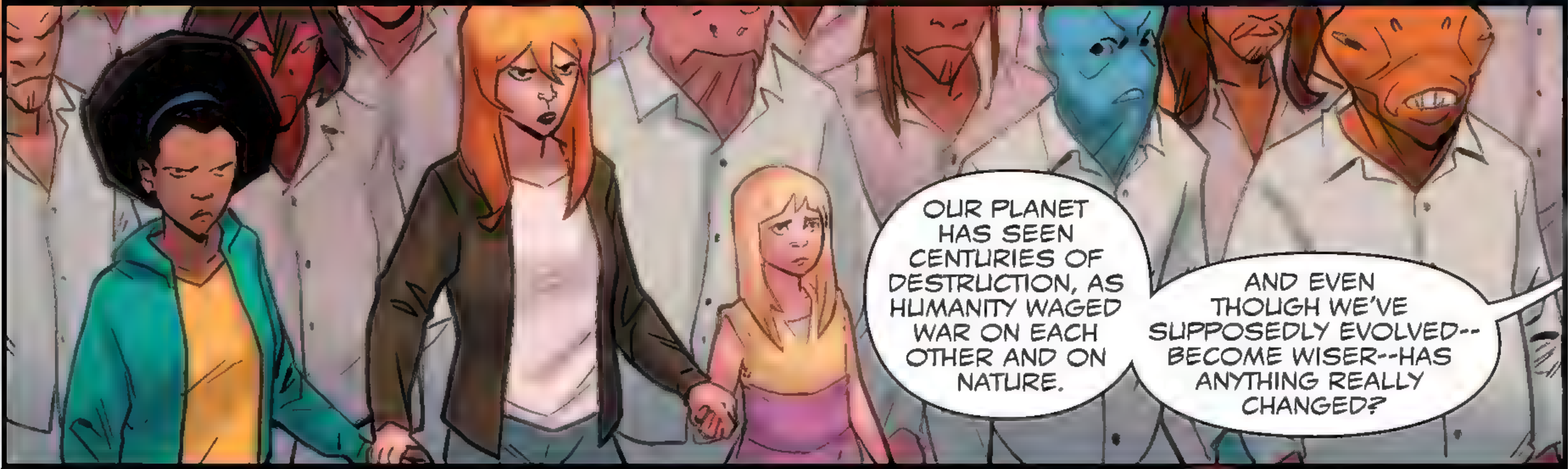


I JUST HAVE
ZERO IDEA HOW
I'M SUPPOSED
TO STOP THEM.

WELCOME,
EVERYONE.

WHAT ABOUT
ME IS SO
SPECIAL?

I'M SO GLAD
YOU ALL COULD
MAKE IT HERE THIS
EVENING, AS WE
STAND ON THE BRINK
OF A BRAND-NEW
WORLD.



OUR PLANET
HAS SEEN
CENTURIES OF
DESTRUCTION, AS
HUMANITY WAGED
WAR ON EACH
OTHER AND ON
NATURE.

AND EVEN
THOUGH WE'VE
SUPPOSEDLY EVOLVED--
BECOME WISER--HAS
ANYTHING REALLY
CHANGED?



IT'S TIME
TO STOP WAITING
FOR HUMANITY TO
COURSE-CORRECT
ON ITS OWN.

IT'S TIME TO
TAKE CHARGE
OF OUR OWN
DESTINY.

SEND A
MESSAGE TO FANG.
NOW. IF WE CAN'T STOP
THIS, THEY NEED
TO KNOW WHERE
ITEX IS.



WE WILL
ENSURE THE
VERY BEST
OF THE HUMAN
RACE HAS THE
MEANS TO NOT
ONLY SURVIVE,
BUT TO
THRIVE.



SENT.

THE TIME
HAS COME
TO SEPARATE
WHEAT FROM
CHAFF.



A comic book panel depicting a tense moment. On the left, a woman with long red hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark jacket, looks shocked with her mouth open. On the right, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue suit, looks back at her with a determined expression, her hand raised as if gesturing. In the background, a large crowd of people with various alien-like features watches from behind a barrier. To the far left, the head of a large blue robot is visible. The sky is a hazy orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

I'D LIKE TO
GET TO KNOW
MY DAUGHTER
A LITTLE BIT
FIRST.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

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